

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6157

BILL NUMBER: SB 344

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 23, 2009

BILL AMENDED: Feb 5, 2009

SUBJECT: Restoration of County Offices of Family Resources.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Becker

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. C. Brown

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill eliminates authority of the Division of Family Resources to replace county offices with regional offices. The bill replaces references to "local office" and "local director" with "county office" and "county director". It also repeals definitions of "local office" and "local director".

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill requires that the Division of Family Resources (DFR) maintain offices in each county by eliminating a provision that allowed the state to consolidate office operations into regions or districts for increased efficiency and better use of resources. The provision requiring the DFR to operate an office in each county has no fiscal impact since FSSA reports that there is a DFR office in each county in Indiana. Additionally the Eligibility Modernization contract between the state and IBM requires the state to maintain a county office in each county throughout the term of the contract.

(Revised) The bill also requires the DFR to appoint a county director in each county. The cost of this provision would depend on administrative actions. The bill does not require that the county director be housed in the county office or that the position be full-time. The DFR could appoint existing staff as county directors. The county director's function has been filled on a part-time basis by directors with responsibility for multiple counties in the past. Since that time, the function of the county director as a county appointing authority for the administration of welfare has changed significantly with the creation of the separate Department of Child Services and the assumption of the county welfare levies by the state in HEA1001-2008. Currently, the DFR website shows 8 regional managers and more than 40 eligibility managers responsible for DFR offices in each county and multiple office locations within the most populous counties. Multiple county offices have just two or three state eligibility caseworkers assigned.

The Department of Child Services (DCS) retains the authority to consolidate county offices into regions or districts. The DCS reports that there is a DCS office in each county in the state.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DFR, Family and Social Services Administration

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: DFR, DCS, DFR website at: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/df/2999.htm> , *Master Services Agreement Regarding Division of Family Resources Modernization Project by and between the State of Indiana, Acting on behalf of the Family and Social Services Administration, and International Business Machines Corporation*, and PeopleSoft State HRM Detail Staffing Report Position and Employee Totals, 10/31/2008.

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